

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

Claims 1-33 (cancelled)

Claim 34. (Amended) A method for preparing a phthalate polyester-ether polyol comprising ~~the steps of~~

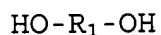
(1) forming a mixture by combining

a) about 2 - 60 % based on the weight of the mixture

~~phthalate polyester-ether polyol~~ of phthalic anhydride or phthalic acid; and

b) about 40 - 98 % based on the weight of the mixture

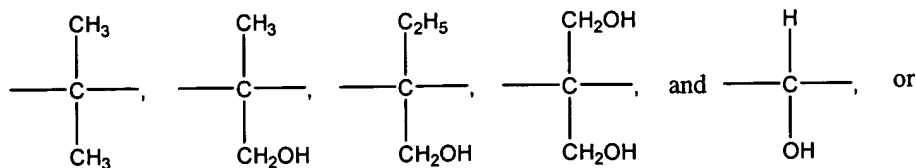
~~phthalate polyester-ether polyol~~ of at least one polyol of the formula:



wherein R₁ represents:

(a) alkylene groups of ~~about~~ 2 to 10 carbon atoms;

(b) -CH₂-R₂-CH₂- where R₂ represents:



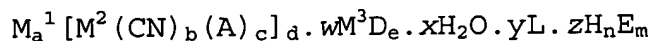
(c) $-(R_3O)_{n_2}-R_3-$ where each R_3 independently is an alkylene group of ~~about~~ 2 to ~~about~~ 4 carbon atoms, and n_2 is an integer of from about 1 - 200,

to produce ~~form~~ an intermediate polyester-polyol; and

(2) alkoxylating said intermediate polyester polyol in the presence of a double metal cyanide complex catalyst with about 10 - 80 % based on the weight of the phthalate polyester-ether polyol of an alkoxylating agent to form the polyester-ether polyol.

Claim 35. (Cancelled)

36. (Amended) A method according to claim 34 35, wherein the double metal cyanide complex catalyst is of the formula I



wherein

M^1 represents at least one of Zn(II), Fe(II), Co(II), Ni(II),

Mn(II), Cu(II), Sn(II) or Pb(II);

M^2 represents at least one of Fe(II), Fe(III), Co(III), Cr(III),

Mn(II), Mn(III), Ir(III), Rh(III), Ru(II), V(IV) or V(V);

M^3 represents M^1 and/or M^2 ;

A, D and E are the same or different and ~~each~~ represent an anion

~~which may be the same or different;~~

L represents an alcohol, aldehyde, acetone, ether, ester, amide, nitrile or sulphide or mixtures thereof;

a and d are numbers to satisfy the valency state of M^1 and M^2 in the double metal cyanide part of the ~~general~~ formula I;

b and c are integers ($b > c$) which together with a and d provide the electroneutrality of the double metal cyanide part of the ~~general~~ formula I;

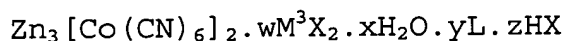
e is an integer satisfying the valency state of M^3 ;

n and m are integers satisfying the electroneutrality of HE, and

w is a number between 0.1 and 4; x is a number up to 20;

y is a number between 0.1 and 6, and z is a number between 0.1 and 5.

37. (Amended) A method according to claim 34 ~~35~~, wherein the double metal cyanide complex catalyst is of the formula



wherein

X represents a halide;

M^3 represents Zn(II), Co(II) or Fe(II);

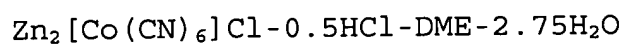
L represents an alcohol, ether or ester; ~~and~~

w is a number between 0.7 and 1.5;

x is a number between 2 and 10;

y is a number between 1.5 and 3, and z is a number between 0.15 and 1.5.

38. (Amended) A method according to claim 34 ~~35~~, wherein the double metal cyanide complex catalyst is of the formula



where DME represents a dimethoxyethane residue.

Claims 39-40. (Cancelled)